है, वे वहां के प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान और कम्पनीज़ होते हैं। कई बार यह बात ध्यान में जरूर आई है कि इस तरह की भी कुछ बातें हुई हैं कि तनख्वाह की जो पेशकश की गई हों, वहां पर जाने के बाद अगर उतनी न मिली हो, तो जब भी इस तरह की कोई बात सामने आती है, उसको हमारे दूतावास और हमारे कंस्युलेट्स उठाते हैं....(व्यवधान)...

श्री वी० हनुमंत राव: कुछ नहीं करते है, सर। कुछ नहीं करते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री आनन्द शर्मा: देखिए, जहां तक सवाल है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, ठीक है....(व्यवधान)...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Many people have made representations. There is nothing of that sort.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, if I may, just for the benefit of this House, say one thing those people, who go to take up employment, are issued visas; their applications are scrutinized here. And, it is then the responsibility of the employing agency, for the company, to abide by the conditions, and there are legal provisions that are available to such people if they are denied what they are assured. That would be the position.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Sir, we are discussing about the Immigration Reform Bill of the USA. Here it is pertinent to talk about the United Kingdom. The Government of UK has banned the recruitment of nurses from India. Is the hon. Minister aware of that? Thousands of nurses are ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a different question. There is no need for a reply.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Sir, the hon. Minister may give a reply ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He may reply anything ...(*Interruptions*)... but I won't allow him. I am neither going to allow you, nor would I allow the Minister to reply. Next question, Q.No. 402.

Competitive edge to post offices

*402. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

transmission and delivery of mail, money transfer and various financial services has declined over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide competitive edge to post offices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) the overall volume of ordinary mail has declined over the past few years. At the same time, premium products like Speed Post, Business Post and Express Parcel services have witnessed an increase in volumes.

The details of volume and trend in mail, money orders/money transfer and financial services are given in Statement-I enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) The Department of Posts has comprehensively inducted technology to meet customer expectations to manage different operations, to improve quality, enhance efficiency and to curtail cost.

To give a business focus to the activities to the Department, the Business Development Directorate set up in 1996 was reorganized into Business Development and marketing Directorate in the year 2004-05. A dedicated business development and marketing structure has also been created at Circle, Regional and Divisional levels. Department of Posts has introduced business products and services like Speed Post, Express Parcel Service, Business Post, Bill Mail Service, e-Post, Direct Post, Logistic Post, e-Bill Post etc. to meet the demands of India's rapidly growing economy and especially of its service sector.

A new scheme for Speed Post service called 'One India One Rate' has been launched. Priced at Rs. 25 for mail upto 50 grams it is intended to tap Inter-State Document Services and benefit the customers.

Postal Finance Marts are being set up to improve the ambience in which Postal Finance Services are offered and to bring under one roof, with networked and computerized facilities, all postal financial products like Savings Bank, Postal Life Insurance, Oriental Life Insurance, International Money Transfer, Mutual Fund and Bonds, Government securities, Domestic Money Transmission etc. with value additions like advice through suitably qualified officials.

The Post Office is providing Group Personal Accident Death Insurance Cover to all Savings Bank Account Holders on request on payment of Rs. 15/- per account in a tie-up with Oriental Insurance Corporation.

Statement-I

Revenue and Traffic Figures of the premium products during the last three years

Traffic (in Crores) and Revenue (Rs. in crores)

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Products	**Traffic**	**Revenue**	**Traffic**	**Revenue**	**Traffic**	**Revenue**
Speed Post	6.34	243.01	8.27 (+30.4%)	298.35 (+22.77%)	9.60 (+16.08%)	354.16 (+18.7%)
Business Post	49.58	276.86	65.36 (+31.82%)	365.11 (+31.87%)	77.80 (+19.03%)	473.06 (+29.56%)
Express Parcel Post	0.58	26.10	0.67 (+15.5%)	31.45 (+20.4%)	0.66 (-1.49%)	37.70 (+19.87%)
Retail Post	1.15	7.87	4.64 (+303%)	33.65 (+327%)	8.15 (+75.6%)	50.50 (+50%)

Volumes of Traditional Mail (in crores)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Unregistered	1395.80	1081.34	887.16	842.16	714.62
Registered	24.52	21.72	22.24	21.36	21.42

Statement showing increase in Savings Bank & Savings Certificate work in Post Offices during the last three years

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Gross funds handled (Deposits & withdrawal)	No. of saving accounts (all types)	Saving certificates deposits
2002-03	105,128	14.91	33,190
2003-04	139,855	14.42	39,166
2004-05	183,801	16.15	33,718

Details of Money transfer through money order during the past three years

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
No. of Money orders (in Lakhs)	1050.30	1101.47 (+4.87%)	1015.98 (-7.76%)
Value of Money orders issued (Rs. in Lakhs)	8,65,000.40	6,87,502.40 (-20.52%)	7,05,216.51 (+2.57%)

Details of International Money Transfer Service

(Amount in crores)

Year	Transactions	Total amount remitted	Charges	Foreign exchange gain	Total Commission	Percentage increase
2003-04	149077	357.00	3.98	1.80	5.79	
2004-05	345399	752.33	6.94	4.06	11.00	89.98%
2005-06	898003	1703.58	12.56	9.03	21.60	96.2%
TOTAL:		2812.91	23.49	14.89	38.39	

SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Sir, the lengthy answer given by the Minister confirms the fact that the volume of mail handled by the Postal Department has been declining and the Postal Department is unable to compete with private courier services. Because the speed post is slow and undependable, Government offices and PSUs send their mail through private couriers. What specific steps have been taken to make the Express Service at par with private couriers?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member has asked the reasons for decline in the quantity of mail in India. But the very fact is that person to person mail has been reducing because of the technological development. Today, people are communicating more with e-mails; today telephone calls are so cheap that people are using more phones. If he has seen the data submitted with the written reply, hon. Member could see the revenue from the Speed Post has increased year after year. In fact, Sir, the total postal revenue has increased. For the last five years, we can see it is increasing. In fact, we have realised that most of the mails are now taking place from business to business. In fact, on 21st of this month, we have launched a new service called "One India One Rate" courier service in which the speed post of 50 gms. of weight can be sent anywhere in India at the flat rate of Rs. 25. This is being very well accepted by the business community and consistently we are making developments in attracting more business communities to use such mails.

SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Sir, I am putting my second supplementary. Like "One India One Rate", the same scheme called "One India One Rupee" was launched by the same Minister. For one rupee you can say only 'hello'. Under "One India One Rate", I don't know whether the mail will reach or not. What assurance will the Minister give that there will be no retrenchment due to less volume of work, and that all the EDs will be made permanent?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I am quite happy to note that hon. Member has realized that I am also the Communication Minister and Telecom comes under me. So, only I can make such announcements. If the hon. Member wants to criticise that, then I think he should ...(*Interruptions*)... Let me answer. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am standing here. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, the hon. Member should go into the details of the programme rather making such flat statements. The programme is very well received and our intention is to make sure that we get more revenue for the Postal Department. We are doing such a good service that the business society has accepted it.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, very recently during the current Session of the Parliament, we came to know from media that the Ministry has increased Speed Post charges from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25, but there is no increase of charges in Business Post. If you go through the revenue earnings of 2002-03, you will find increase in the earning of the Speed Post, Business Post, Express Parcel Service etc. But there is a serious decrease of Rs. 670 crore in the volume of traditional mail.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: So, in totality, the earning of revenue has decreased. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this aspect has been given a thought by the Ministry. And whether he has revised the rate of Business Post?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, as I mentioned earlier, the traditional post volume has decreased. It is a fact that we have to accept. Due to technology changes, people are now preferring other means to communicate and transmit a mail like e-mail and telephones. There is an impression that we are trying to concentrate only on Business Post. The volume of Speed Post also has increased. In fact, if I can say, in the year 2000-01, the total revenue of the Postal Department was Rs. 3,297 crore, but in the year 2004-05 we have a revenue of Rs. 4431.85 crore. So, the revenue is increasing.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, levying service tax on saving schemes is one of the reasons for the steep decline in financial services of post offices. Sir, I would like the Minister to inform the House whether service tax is levied on speed post, postal life insurance and money orders. I do not understand the rationale for levying service tax on saving schemes of post offices, like Postal Life Insurance. Sir, I am told that service tax on money order is withdrawn, but tax levied on speed post remains.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, will the Minister come forward to take steps to ask the Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, to withdraw the service tax on postal saving scheme, life insurance scheme and other schemes? Hon. Minister has to take steps.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I would request the hon. Member to ask the Finance Minister directly.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Because postal services are being affected.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that the vacancies arising on account of retirement of postmen and sad demise of the postmen are not being filled in the Department of Post. Is the Minister aware of the total number of extra departmental agents in rural India and what are their grievances pending with the Government of India?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member's question does not relate to this question. Let him put a separate question, I will answer it.

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट: मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि पोस्टल सर्विस समाज की सेवा के लिए है या व्यापार के लिए है? क्योंकि ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: क्योंकि नहीं, सीधा जवाब ले लो कि व्यापार के लिए है या सेवा के लिए है।

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट: इस रिर्पोट के मुताबिक पोस्टल सर्विस का काम बढ़ता जाता है, लेकिन कुरियर सर्विस पर उन्होंने कंट्रोल डाल रखा है। तो ओपन मार्किट में और कम्पिटीशन के जमाने में मैं मानता हूं कि कुरियर को भी साथ लेकर चलना चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी आप बताइए कि पोस्टल सर्विस व्यापार के लिए है या सेवा के लिए है?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I am not getting the translation.

श्री जयन्ती लाल बरोट: यह पोस्टल सर्विस सोशल सर्विस है या कमर्शियल सर्विस है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member is asking whether postal services are for commerce or social service.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: It is for both, social and commercial. We also have to make money. We are trying to make efforts to reduce the deficits. At the same time, we are competitive enough. Sir, the fact is that person-to-person mail has reduced. I think, we have to come to terms with that.

Promotion of Sports and Sportsmen

*403. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the special package and facilities envisaged to promote and enhance the skills of Indian Players and Sportsmen except usual and conventional practices that are in existence at present;